

# City of Amarillo

## Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012, the City of Amarillo Environmental Advisory Committee met at 12 Noon in City Hall Room 306, with the following members present:

Amber Spencer      Terence Ng      Barbara Whitton      Rosemartha Cates      Ken Pirtle  
Michael Rice      Julie White

Absent was:  
John Sawyers

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and the following items of business were conducted:

Ken Pirtle was introduced as a new member to the committee. With the addition of Ken the required number of people to make quorum is now four.

Reading of last meeting minutes, motion to accept the minutes as printed was made Amber Spencer by seconded by Terence Ng, motion passed.

### **Xeriscape demonstration project**

Commissioner Ellen Green spoke to the committee about:

- Designing & creating a Xeriscape demonstration garden on City of Amarillo property
  - She spoke with James Kathy at Panhandle Greenhouse and he would donate or sell plants at cost.
  - Ken suggested also contacting Neal Hinders with Canyons Edge Plants
- Taking pictures and mapping Xeriscape examples that have been done throughout the City of Amarillo

Larry Offerdahl spoke about:

- Water conservation at the City parks
- Plans to Xeriscape around the new Zoo education center
- Changing the grass in the parks from cool season grasses to warm season grasses
- Xeriscaping an entire park (no specific park selected yet)
- Xeriscape between the curb and sidewalk at San Jacinto park
- Adopt a Park
- Weather stations at parks
- Trees in the parks
  - Siberian Elms that died
  - Tree nurseries
  - Plant 400 – 500 trees per year
  - Tree mapping system (GIS)
- ANB Operation Regeneration 2012
  - Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012
  - Volunteer registration starts at 8:30 (pick nick area 4)
  - 250 trees (4 to 5 different varieties)
  - Xeriscape bed
  - Planting for 1,200 volunteers
  - Water collection tent with displays of water catchment barrels
- BP Arbor Trail
  - Rails for trail from Coulter to Wolflin
  - 23 varieties of trees that will grow in Amarillo

Discussion was held about where to plant the Xeriscape garden. Medi Park was suggested due to the high volume of people that park receives. (Larry would find a place for the garden and let the committee know.) It was suggested that Angie Hannah be contacted to help work on the project. It was also suggested to make it an event that volunteers could help plant the garden.

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**Places to distribute the handout:**

On Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, on Van Buren Street from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Earth Day celebration in the West Edge District of downtown. It was suggested handing out flyers on water conservation and the “plant for the panhandle” handout at this event. It was suggested to ask people to do three things to save water.

**Report on any progress made talking to people about water issues:**

No committee members had anything to report.

**Agenda for Next Meeting:**

Discussion about Xeriscape demonstration project

Report on Xeriscape locations and review any pictures taken throughout the City

Report on any progress made about talking to people about water issues

**Comments from Public:**

None

With no other business to be conducted the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.